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OPEN FORUM

QUARTER CENTURY RECORD AND HISTORY OF THE SIGMA XI

The stout volume of over five hundred pages containing the Quarter Century Record and History of the Sigma Xi Society is a source of congratulation to every loyal member of the organization. It is to be presumed that every one who values his membership in Sigma Xi either owns or has attentively examined the work, and a detailed review of its contents would be superfluous here. Its publication is especially gratifying to the writer of this notice, because it is the fulfillment of a hope that he had long entertained and of which he felt entire confidence in the hands of the able and zealous secretary. And he would impress upon the members of Sigma Xi how much they are indebted to his patient and self-sacrificing labors in its production. He feels safe in saying that to no one else does the Society owe more for its growth and usefulness today than to Professor Ward, who has served faithfully for the past nine years as its corresponding secretary, an officer of whom much is expected and to whom too little credit given.

If Sigma Xi is to live and be useful in American science, and we are sure that it will, a faithful history of its inception, growth, and present condition was indispensable at this time, the end of its first quarter century of existence. And such a history Professor Ward, aided by the various chapter secretaries, has given us. Its compilation has been a herculean task, and it is to the credit of all those concerned in its production that it has so few errors. Twenty-five years hence the work will be of incalculable value for its history of the future workers of science in America.

For the benefit of those of our readers who have not seen the work, and we trust that they are few in number, it may be said that the book contains, well printed, a full history of the origin, organization, and development of the Society of the Sigma Xi, a complete list of all its officers, past and present, together with a history of the organization of each of its chapters and a list of all their officers and members, active and alumni, with their addresses and present occupations. And the indices, both geographic and alphabetic, are complete.

The writer has, regretfully, to add that there are still outstand-

ing obligations for the book on the part of some members, the burden of which and the incidental responsibilities connected therewith are thrown on the shoulders of the secretary. Surely he has done enough in the work he has accomplished for the Society to be relieved at once of all further responsibilities connected with its publication.

S. W. WILLISTON.

NEWS ITEMS

Chapters and delegates to the Atlanta Convention should note that the plan proposed by the Minnesota Chapter (see *QUARTERLY* No. 1, p. 12, and p. 23) has not been adopted. It is now before the Society. Regarding expenses President Cattell writes:

"The American Association will this year make efforts to have delegates sent to the meeting from the different universities, the expenses being paid in whole or in part by the institutions if this is possible. I trust that you will be able to see that your chapter is adequately represented and make inquiry as to whether the institution will defray part of the expenses of the delegates."

All of the Chapter Reports are furnished by chapter secretaries and each should be printed over the signature of the responsible officer. In some way these names were in the printing lost from the reports of the Missouri (p. 53), Colorado (p. 73), and Cornell (p. 81) chapters published in the *QUARTERLY*. Full credit for the reports in question should be given to the respective secretaries.

The Year Book of the Alpha Chapter of the Society of the Sigma Xi for 1913-1914, compiled by the Recording Secretary, is a very attractive pamphlet of 20 pages. It gives the record of the past year, the proposed program for the current year, the officers and committees of the chapter and the list with addresses of its active members in good standing on November 3. It furnishes clear evidence of an efficient secretary and an active influential chapter.